for Judaistic studies was founded at Cincinnati. The increased importance of the American Jews became specially marked during and after the War, when, by their large-scale philanthropy, they were able to afford relief to the destitute Jews in Europe. Thus even before 1933, as a result of the War and of the German defeat, the 500,000 Jews in Germany had to yield their leading position in world-Jewry to the 4,500,000 American Jews.

Leadership in world-Jewry has far-reaching cultural effects. So long as the Jews have any consciousness of unity, and so long as there exist among them differences in the level of education, wealth, and political influence, the poorer will look up to the more favoured, and the greater the assistance given by these, the greater will be their authority. In past centuries, famous scholars in Babylon, Spain, and Poland were asked to adjudicate difficult religious questions, and their dicta became law for the entire Diaspora; now leadership in Jewry is based foremost on wealth^ political influence, and organizing ability.

(2) ASCENDANCY OF AMERICAN JEWRY

American Jewry forms to-day numerically the biggest unit, and exceeds all others in wealth and political influence, great numbers among them having

risen into the wealthiest leading circles. Although in the economic crisis of 1929-1933 the American Jews suffered great financial losses, never in the Diaspora have so many million Jews lived in one country in freedom and comfort as now in the United States. Their intervention on behalf of their co-religionists in Europe was successful on more than one occasion, and shortly before the War resulted even in the denunciation of the commercial treaty between the United States and Russia. The fact that most East European Jews have well-to-do relatives in America, and that since 1914